jurisdiction of the Chadayamangalam Sub-registry office, might be added on to the Punalur Sub-district and that Navaikulam might be brought under the jurisdiction of the proposed Pallikkal Sub-registry office.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

48. Need for the appointment of Notaries public and licensed document-writers.

Mr. C. V. Kunjuraman (Member, Nominated) regretted the absence of a law regulating the transfer of property. But the Registration Regulation contained a provision to the effect that all transfers of immovable property should be done by means of registered documents. Though it was laid down that the persons in whose hand-writing the deeds for registration were copied should write their names in the deeds and sign them, there was no statutory provision as to the qualifications of document-writers or conveyancers. Most of the so-called document-writers of the present day were lads who were 10 or 12 years old. Though they were in the habit of putting their signatures to the instruments presented for registration, they were, as a rule, ignorant of the contents of the documents they were supposed to have conveyanced and signed. The real conveyancers were others who posed themselves as clever in drafting the documents. Those people made use of the services of the lads to copy their drafts. All the controversial litigation in the country could be easily traced to those pretentious drafters of deeds described above. There were others who were not mere lads. The men could be easily seen and identified as those loitering about the verandahs of Sub-Registrars' offices, eager to get hold of people who might be resorting to those offices. It would be difficult to find, among those people, decent men of any social status or of tolerable literacy, not to speak of any who might have received the requisite schooling or training to fit them for such a task. Their drafting had led several people to utter ruin. The large volume of contentious and vexatious litigation in the civil courts of the land was the result of the mischief in drafting. There were instances in which deeds registered as outright purchase had been contended in civil courts as mortgage. Such cases arose because of the deliberately ambiguous use of words in the registered deeds. The Member here dilated on the nature of the composition of the deeds and observed that the lawyers' abilities and methods of presenting the cases decided the fate of the parties to such deeds. The remedy for such a state of affairs was that those who were responsible for the drafting of the deeds should be educated men who realized their responsibility. In some cases, it might happen that the drafters were lawyers, especially in cases where the subject-matter of the deed was large landed property. But it could not be expected that all deeds would be prepared by lawyers, because their fee would be larger than that of the document-writers. In view of the evils explained above, it was highly necessary, the Member contended, that Government should take some immediate steps to remove the hardships the people were suffering from. He was not in a position to suggest any effective remedy. But what obtained in Ceylon was as follows. The deeds for registration were being drafted by Notaries Public before whom the parties to the deed had to present themselves. If the party or parties be not known to the Notary Public, there should be a witness to identify the party or parties who made the Notary Public understand the lines on which a deed had to be drawn up. The Notary Public then drew up a draft and read it over to the parties and explained to them the true import. If the draft was approved, the parties signed the deed attested by the witness or witnesses. The Notary Public had then to certify that the parties were known to him direct or that they were introduced to him through another person in case they were not known to him. Deeds were not copied on stamped sheets as in Travancore. The cost of stamps and registration fee was realized and stamps of the required value were affixed to the deed when it was registered. The Notary Public took a copy of the document, got it signed by the parties and attested by the witnesses and then sent it on to the Sub-Registrar for registration. The Registering Officer would register the document in due form, keep a copy for his office and return the original deed registered to the Notary Public who would hand it over

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to the party concerned. The Member submitted that some such procedure might be followed here. Defects might be pointed out by the department to the procedure on the ground that the number of Sub-Registrars might have to be cut down. But what should be remembered was that a good deal of retrenchment might be effected by the proposal made.

The next point for consideration was whether men of requisite capacity and character could be found in Travancore to be made Notaries Public. The opinion of the Member was in the affirmative, especially in view of the fact that suitable men had been found to serve as Judges in the Panchayat Courts and Members of Town Improvement Committees. There were hundreds of young men who, after passing the School Leaving or School Final Examinations, had also secured a fair grounding in Registration and Stamp Laws and procedure in transactions connected with the transfer of property. If an examination were held in those and allied subjects and a certificate issued, that would be a sufficient qualification for the business of conveyancing. In conclusion, the Member emphatically prayed for some such system as he recommended being introduced as a safeguard against the evils mentioned by him.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

IV. PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

(1) Agriculture.

49. Necessity for holding an annual Agricultural Exhibition at Nagercoil for the benefit of the ryots of Nanjanad.

Mr. D. Francis (Member, Nominated) said that Nanjanad was an agricultural centre and that different varieties of paddy, cereals, fruits, vegetables, yams, oilseeds, etc., were largely produced there; but the ryots were quite indifferent to the importance attaching to the selection of suitable seeds for the different kinds of soil and the manure that suited them and the different methods of cultivation. The ryots could be made to realize the value of scientific methods only when they were made aware of the out-turn obtained in the advanced countries where improved methods of cultivation were adopted. In the Member's opinion, the easiest way of imparting agricultural knowledge to the ryot population was by the holding of an annual Agricultural Exhibition and instructing the ryots on the various agricultural subjects by means of lectures in the Exhibition hall by competent persons. The Member added that an annual Agricultural Exhibition was held at Nagercoil about 20 years ago and prayed that Government might be pleased to revive it by holding one at Nagercoil with a view to enlighten the agricultural classes on matters affecting their best interests.

Dewan's reply.—In other parts of Travancore such as Oachira, Omallur and Muvattupuzha, the people are organising and conducting such Exhibitions on their own initiative. The Government help the movement by giving a grant and in other ways. The Government will be very glad to render similar help, if the people of Nagercoil also organise such Exhibitions. It might not be possible for the Government themselves to organise Exhibitions.

50. Suggestions for the improvement of Agriculture in the State.

Mr. S. Natarajaperumal Pillai (Member, Trivandrum taluk) said that the industrial regeneration of the country was one of the important problems that had to be solved, that agriculture was the main industry of the State as it was followed by about two-thirds of the people and that, therefore, Government should render all possible assistance for its development. Improvement in agriculture could be effected both by *intensive* and *extensive* cultivation. The difficulties in the way of *extensive* cultivation were (1) the policy till recently followed of allowing registry of vast areas of land in

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